

INTERNET WEB BROWSER WITH PROXIMITY SENSITIVE HYPERLINK HISTORY REPORT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A web browser program presents historical information about hyperlinks shown on
web pages. Initially, the computer determines whether it is receiving certain user input,
such as placement of a cursor over a hyperlink for a certain time. When this occurs, the
computer accesses a database to determine whether one or more users in a predefined
access group have previously selected the hyperlink for the purpose of downloading
underlying data represented by the hyperlink. Some examples of the underlying data
include web pages, graphics images, software programs, and the like. If the hyperlink has
not been previously selected, no action needs to be taken. However, if the database
shows that the hyperlink has been previously selected, the computer consults the database
to gather characteristics of the underlying data obtained from previous selections of the
hyperlink by access group members. Such characteristics may include, for example, the
data's size, date of last download, expired or "under construction" status of web site, errors
occurring during the download, etc. The computer presents a report containing the
characteristics gathered from the database.

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